GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4344
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN COURTS
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that all official work in High Courts of tile country is done in English instead of official language ;

(b) if so, whether it is one of the causes of delay in the disposal of cases in the High Courts of Hindi Speaking States;

(c) whether the Government is likely to formulate any law to ensure that all official work in the High Courts of the country is done in official languages ;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if-not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) to (e): Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provid~ that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Under Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the p~se of judgements etc. made by the High Court for that State.

In so far as the Hindi speaking States are concerned the Governors of four States namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradeah have authorized the use of Hindi in addition to English language in the proceedings as well as the judgements, decrees etc. of the High Courts in their States.

At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government to authorize use of Hindi in any other High Court or the Supreme Court of India. However, the Registries of the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court have been requested from time to time to encourage use of Hindi for administrative purposes.

Various steps have been taken to reduce delay if any in the disposal of cases in Courts these include periodically monitoring the pendency position in courts, grouping of cases involving common question of law, cons`titution of specialized benches, timely filling up the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of disputes resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Centtal Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income T8?` Appellate ~Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Fast Track Courts etc.